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NORMANDY PARK

SPRING 2021



Stepping
into
Spring

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Chad@OhrtGroup.com
Cyndi@OhrtGroup.com

Spring 2021



CITY HALL
801 SW 174th St SW
Normandy Park WA 98166

CITY HALL MAIN LINE
206-248-7603

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Mark Hoppen
206-248-8246

MANAGING EDITOR
Brooks Wall
206-248-8248

REVIEW TEAM
Sue-Ann Hohimer
Susan West
Jessie Medrow
Amanda Leon
Nicholas Matz



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the City of Normandy Park

COLIBRI Northwest
PO Box 13130
Des Moines, WA 98198-1003

PUBLISHER
Peter Philips
206-779-2746
peter@colibrinw.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Katie Higgins
206-914-4248
katie@colibrinw.com

PRODUCTION
Jason Becker

INSIDE

Mayor's Message	4
Six Years of Service.....	5
Welcome Nicholas Matz	6
Comprehensive Plan	8
The City's Piece of the Pie	9
Code Corner: Does My Project Require a Permit?	10
City Scene Online.....	11
Stepping Things Up in Nist Park	14
Police Department Anniversary Celebration.....	15
Community Recycling Event	16
Virtual Adaptation of StormFest	18
Monitoring Stormwater	19
Spring in Normandy Park Photo Essay	20-21
Resource Reservoir	22-23



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Sue-Ann Hohimer
Mayor

Stepping into Spring

Springtime should be quite the welcomed delight after the challenging year we've been through. As nature's beauty springs forth from the gloom of winter to the vibrant yellows and pastels of spring florals, we are again reminded that newness, change and growth are essential to life and progress. This issue of *City Scene Magazine* is intended to inform its readers of the many opportunities that we, as a community, can step into, together, this spring. It spotlights Nist Park and the new swing set that will be sprouting up very soon, as outdoor recreation opportunities throughout all of our parks increase with warming weather. Thanks to our Public Works Crew, homeowners, and all the volunteers who work to make our public parks and rights-of-way look stepped up and ready for spring.

Though many have taken advantage of quarantine time this past year to refresh the yard and attempt long-awaited household projects, March, April and May are excellent months to knock out the spring cleaning that still awaits. This issue offers guidance on outdoor cleaning that keeps our stormwater safe, up-coming

recycling events, and Municipal Code information so that sprucing up your driveway and right-of-way for added curb appeal, can be accomplished properly. For extra help, find information in our new section entitled, "Resource Reservoir".

You've heard the phrase, "Bloom where you're planted." Well, this issue introduces our new Community Development Director, Nicholas Matz. We are excited to have him planted in our midst and are confident that his experienced leadership in this role, will keep us grounded in community as we continue to develop.

Last but certainly not least, this issue has us wishing all the best to our City Manager, Mark Hoppen, as he steps into retirement. We have so many reasons to be thankful to him for all the good he has cultivated in our city during his time with us. He definitely leaves us better than he found us. You can read more in this issue about his plans in retirement.

With gratitude for all who contributed to this issue, we hope you enjoy, "Stepping into Spring".



CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall Address:

801 SW 174th Street, Normandy Park, WA 98166

City Office—Operating Hours and Contact Information:

City Staff can be reached at 206-248-7603, Monday-Friday 8:30am–4:30pm, closed for lunch 12–1pm.

Due to COVID, City Hall is closed. If you need city services please call 206-248-7603 to make an appointment.

City Services provided at City Hall:

- Building Permits
- City Administration
- Citizen Requests
- Code Enforcement
- Pet & Business Licensing
- Recreational & Facility Scheduling
- Request for Records
- Stormwater & Street Repairs

Police Directory:

Non-Emergency Police Number:
206-248-7600

Police Records Manager can be reached during the hours of 8:30am–4:30pm, Monday–Thursday and 8:30am–2pm Friday

Non-emergency Police Services:

- Concealed Weapon Permits
- Fingerprinting
- House Checks
- Lost Pet

For Emergencies please dial 911

Six Years of Service

MARK E. HOPPEN, ICMA-CM, CITY MANAGER

As most of you have heard, I decided to retire one day before my 70th birthday on April 8. For years, my retirement marketing pitch to my wife, Marilyn, is that I am not performing regular work in my 70s.

I plan to write, teach, coach, consult, and play, but an eight-hour regular workday...not any more. Thanks so much for the opportunity to be Normandy Park's City Manager.

When I drive into work, I always find it refreshing to drive the curvilinear streets, to see people walking with friends, and to sense the calm that characterizes the community. One of my oldest friends from college lives here, another owns the Normandy Towne Center. Normandy Park seemed familiar to me before I even got here six years ago.

When I arrived, the city was facing a year-end General Fund balance of \$78K with a monthly payroll of \$220K. Today, the City Council, Finance Director and I have fostered reserves in all funds, and the General Fund and Strategic Reserve have a combined balance of over \$1 million.

Normandy Park's current reserve fund balances and strategic reserve should be somewhat greater than today; nevertheless, the city is on the right operational track. This achievement will be evidenced in the city's top available bond rating later this year.

Also, through prudent fiscal management, the city eliminated its \$1 million Third Runway legal

debt and is on the verge of paying off the \$1.2 million 1st Avenue legal judgement – at the earliest pay-off point under the bond issue requirements, in December 2022.

The city has been able to repair streets these past few years, mostly through street grant acquisition, using Transportation Benefit District and Real Estate Excise Tax funds to match grants. The city couldn't engage in sufficient street repair work without grant monies, because General Fund monies are currently not available for keeping up major street repair services.

We don't want that uncertain funding situation anywhere else in services. Normandy Park's only city department that is staffed above bare minimum service capability is the Police Department. But the cost of police service staffing can only exceed seven police officers with a levy lid lift. The opportunity to preserve and renew this levy will be on the ballot this fall.

This levy makes it possible to pay for ten police officers, including



Mark & Marilyn at one of their many Rotary Club functions

the chief. Without this levy, the city must reduce law enforcement staffing by three police officers, as it did in 2015.

Normandy Park has great, hard-working staff members; I've appreciated the talents, skills and achievements of all employees. I've truly enjoyed serving Normandy Park.

If you want to find me, visit my boyhood home at the Gig Harbor Boatshop. I'll be sitting at the end of the public dock, early every morning, wasting time. (I probably won't waste the whole day...)

Mark Hoppen

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Contact Your City Council



Position 1
Earnest Thompson
Earnest.Thompson@
normandyparkwa.gov



Position 2
Susan West
206-248-8289
Susan.West@
normandyparkwa.gov



Position 3
Shawn McEvoy
206-248-8291
Shawn.McEvoy@
normandyparkwa.gov



Position 4
Mike Bishoff
206-248-8287
Mike.Bishoff@
normandyparkwa.gov



Position 5
Michelle Sipes-Marvin
206-248-8288
Michelle.Sipes-Marvin@
normandyparkwa.gov



Position 6
Patrick McDonald
206-248-8290
Patrick.McDonald@
normandyparkwa.gov



Position 7
Sue-Ann Hohimer
206-248-8292
Sue-Ann.Hohimer@
normandyparkwa.gov

MONTHLY MEETING CALENDAR

Arts Commission

1st Tuesday, 7pm

Economic Development Committee

1st Wednesday, 6pm

Council Meeting

2nd Tuesday, 7pm

Metropolitan Parks District

2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm (if necessary)

Civil Service

3rd Tuesday, Noon (if necessary)

Park Commission

3rd Wednesday, 7pm

Planning Commission

3rd Thursday, 7pm

Council Study Session

4th Tuesday, 7pm (if necessary)

WELCOME

Nicholas Matz is Normandy Park's new Community Development Director. A City of Bellevue planner since 1988 and long-time Senior Planner, Nicholas possesses significant skills in current and long-range planning, public engagement, comprehensive planning, and in the relationship of planning to community well-being. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning, as well as a Bachelor in Environmental Design, from the University of Colorado-Boulder. He is a Past President of the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra and a co-author of *Sustainable Infrastructure: A Toolkit for Planners*.

One of six close siblings spread all over the western United States, Nicholas is happily married and proud of two adult sons. His father will be 90 this year. His family members are his favorite people. When people ask Nicholas how many bicycles he owns, he answers, "Not enough." A voracious reader, his go-to authors are Jonathan Raban, Jane Jacobs, and Isabel Wilkerson.

Nicholas believes that people react and engage with the best of intent.

A professional editor, Nicholas looks up the use of the apostrophe in "its" every time, thinks the em dash—should rule, and believes that the period is a gift to writers. He moved from Colorado to the Northwest for the Salish Sea, raced on a Cal 9.2 for three years (starboard grinder and rail meat), and owned a Potter 19 for three more years—two very different boats. His bucket list has a single item—sail the Inside Passage solo. As he drops anchor in Normandy Park, we wish him a secure moorage.

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Comprehensive Plan

Reading through a comprehensive plan has been compared to plowing through the instructions for Form 1040. *What does this have to do with me?*—we often ask. But just as a well-drawn blueprint provides its owner with a framework for decisions about improvements and upgrades, the comprehensive plan frames change in a community. For us, our neighbors, our future neighbors, all kinds of people in other places, and in our regional partners, a comprehensive plan provides tools, touchstones, and stability in times of uncertain change. It is the shared narrative about what matters to a community.

To ensure our hidden gem provides the highest quality of life, public safety, recreation, history, and community—all in the beauty of our natural surroundings.

Normandy Park Comprehensive Plan Vision

In his winter 2021 *City Scene* article on the Normandy Park community, City Manager Hoppen expanded on this vision, advising that Normandy Park is about to experience the greatest period of local community engagement in history as we emerge from the pandemic. He also characterized a desire to expand our sense of place, and continue to provide services by connecting neighbors and neighborhoods. We remain aware of how fortunate we are that—as Finance Director Ferrer Santes-Ines put it last year in *City Scene*—the city knows where it is going and has the means to get there.

The Comprehensive Plan offers guidance in 2021 and beyond for a community connected to each other and to the larger ecosystem around us. It helps us make careful land use decisions balancing the full range of community objectives—sustaining natural resources, optimizing the use of resources, preserving community character, and improving local quality of life.

To ensure our hidden gem provides the highest quality of life, public safety, recreation, history, and community—all in the beauty of our natural surroundings.

Normandy Park Comprehensive Plan Vision

In our pursuit of sustainable, practical, Normandy Park-focused economic development, we are stewards of the following values:

- Livability drives city actions and investments that sustain the community's high quality of life;
- Connectivity within the community and to the region allows Normandy Park to leverage its location within a growing regional economy;
- Environmental stewardship drives growth and development that enhances the natural environment;
- Efficiency enables the city to deliver clear, predictable processes to the community; and
- Financial feasibility ensures development in Normandy Park is an attractive investment for private developers.

We'll continue, with our business and neighboring city partners, to do the regional things that also matter to Normandy Park's wellbeing. Southside Chamber CEO Andrea Reay noted in *City Scene*

how powerful a hyperlocal focus on community businesses can make us “truly stronger together...the more individuals, businesses, partners, and non-profits that are engaged, the more we can accomplish...”

There are always going to be all kinds of planning and building terms and tools—impervious surface, mixed use, rain garden,

culvert, third places, home occupations. Sometimes it feels like we're back in Form 1040 land again, especially when a needed permit is involved. In heated moments, we can anchor ourselves in a calm, cool connectedness, and remember that often another's voice and thoughts are only heard when we actively listen. Trust does follow.

So I ask of you: Be a keen observer of the Normandy Park land- and cityscape. Share with me your thoughts, pictures, and special places.

Nicholas Matz AICP
nmatz@normandyparkwa.gov

The City's Piece of the Pie

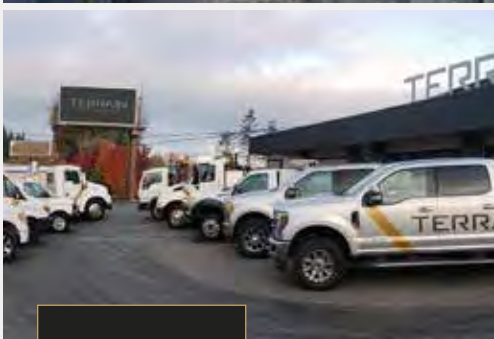
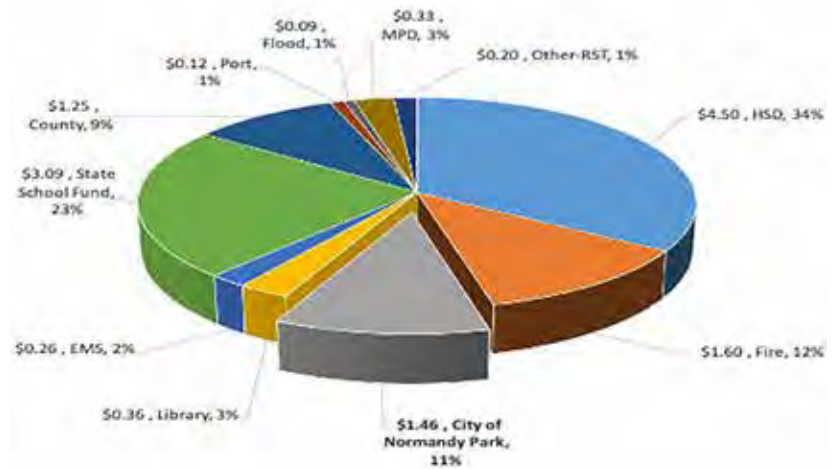
One of your largest expenses may be your annual property tax bill as a homeowner, making it essential you understand how your tax dollars are used.

A home valued at \$500,000 will have a property tax bill as follows:

A large portion, 89% or \$5,899.02, is distributed to other taxing districts like Highline School District, State School Fund, or Fire District.

The City's piece of the pie is 11% or \$730.60, which is distributed to the City of Normandy Park used to provide services to the City, including police, permitting, facilities maintenance, community development and other functions like administration, finance, and clerk support services.

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CODE CORNER

BY JESSIE MEDROW,
ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

It is a common time of year for home projects.

You may wonder: does my project require a permit?

Does any part of your project or driveway replacement take place within the public right-of-way?

Does your project propose any land disturbing activity such as clearing trees and brush, surface grading, filling, or excavating?

Is your property located near a slope, riparian area, shoreline, or critical area?

Is your shed or structure over 200 square feet and does it meet setback requirements?

These are only a few examples of scenarios that may require a permit from the city. If you're unsure, it never hurts to ask!

Sprucing Things Up

Residents take great pride in making their property look nice. Here a few common code violations to watch out for to ensure your property is not only in tip-top shape, but in compliance with Normandy Park Municipal Code too.

Overgrown Vegetation/Trees

Did you know that homeowners are responsible for maintaining an area of right-of-way that is adjacent to or abutting their property? This includes trimming any trees or vegetation that interfere with public safety, driving sight lines, or the free passage of pedestrians;

Replacing a Driveway

Replacing an existing driveway must comply with NPMC and Normandy Park Road Standards and more often than not, a permit is required.

Overgrown vegetation that encroaches public rights-of-way is considered a public nuisance under Title 7 of the Normandy Park Municipal Code. To report a violation call (206) 248-7603.



Spring into *City Scene* Online!

BY MIKAYLA CHICQUETTE

Did you know that the *City Scene* magazines are available on the City of Normandy Park website? You can view PDF copies going back to Winter 2012! New issues will be added to the website so you can view them from your phone, tablet, or desktop. Read *City Scene* while on vacation, download to read offline, zoom in to see small text, and share it with your friends and family!



Spring over to the *City Scene* page by scanning this QR code with your mobile device's camera app. You can also get to the page by searching for "City Scene" on the home page or locate the menu item I Want To... and under Find is the *City Scene* Magazine.

Do you prefer to read physical copies or like to collect them? Don't worry! Physical copies will still be sent to your mailbox. Enjoy the Normandy Park *City Scene* wherever, whenever, and however you please!



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Solstice In BLOOM!



Every year, we eagerly await spring and those precious sunny days that lead to new growth!

Spring is the opportunity to bloom, and in many ways, create a new beginning. At Solstice Senior Living we are blooming! With much anticipation and excitement, just as a new flower opens its petals, we are opening our community again-and it is beautiful!

Beauty can be gauged by the sound of conversations in the dining room over lunch, planning a day of activities with our Vibrant Life Director, or hosting family in your newly renovated oasis. "It's going to be an adventure!" says Joan Thomas who moved to Solstice in July of 2020. Her apartment here has "just enough" to recreate the comfort of home, while the amenities of the community allow new relationships and interests to blossom! "This is a new beginning for everyone, even those who have lived here for 20 years. We have grown stronger together as a community. It's easy to reflect, but the beauty lies ahead, and our vibrant path is glowing!" says Samantha Pabon, Director of Sales and Marketing.

This spring look for the beauty in living a retired, social, secure, and safe life. We welcome you to experience our new beginning and join us on this adventure as we bloom with new possibilities.





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healthy movements, and staying active!
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you and your well-being!

With Solstice at Normandy Park, you're already home. If you've been here your whole life, start a new adventure in a place you are already familiar with. **We're just a walk away**, so live safely, securely and vibrantly with us.

Call today to schedule a tour and learn more about our promotions!



Stepping Things Up in Nist Park

BY AMANDA LEÓN

When Emmet J. Nist donated his property in 2002 to the City of Normandy Park, he did not know what the future would hold. But, he had confidence his gift would be well-received and that his neighbors wanted the property to be a park. Nist Family Park at 242 SW Normandy Road evolved from a quiet horse pasture and home to a beloved community park.

In the last nineteen years, the Normandy Park Parks Commission worked hard to develop the property into a park. The city completed the parking lot and picnic pad in 2006. City volunteers installed a stone seat wall and landscaping in 2016 to maximize the amazing Puget Sound sunset views. Volunteers also installed apple trees and benches, and by 2018, an edible berry patch and rain garden. Later, the city also added the signature stone Nist Family Park sign, along with an entrance gate.

Over the years, capital projects added memorial benches, as well as new white fence along Normandy Road. Community volunteers planted more shrubs and trees in the forest, and Eagle Scouts perfected their carpentry skills, making repairs to the trails. During the 2018 Parks Recreation, and Open Space (PROS Plan) planning process, Nist Family Park neighbors spoke up, laying the groundwork for additional improvements.

Those improvements began with the Celebrate the Children at Nist Park campaign last year. Neighbors, Parks Commissioners, and Arts Commissioners joined to realize even more park amenities. The plan outlined the desire to bring swings, a slide, signage and sculpture to Nist Family Park. The city collected donations from local residents and non-profits. So far, donative efforts have raised \$36,000 of the \$45,000 goal to bring these amenities to Nist Family Park. We have purchased the swings and will be purchasing the slide soon. The Arts Commission intends to select an artist to install a horse sculpture in the park. And with a bit more funding, city crews and volunteers will place the signage and story of Emmet J. Nist and Nist Family Park for everyone to enjoy.

If you wish to be a part of this exciting endeavor and would like to donate to Celebrate the Children at Nist Park, please contact Normandy Park City Hall at (206) 248-7603.



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April 24th • 9am–3pm

**WA State Criminal Justice Training Center,
19010 1st Ave S, Burien, WA 98148**

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- Television sets
- Tires (limit 6)
- Batteries
- Cardboard
- Propane tanks (\$5 charge)
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- Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners (\$30–\$35 charge)
- Bulky wood
- Mattress/ Box Springs (\$15 charge)
- Styrofoam blocks and packing peanuts
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TTY Relay: 711

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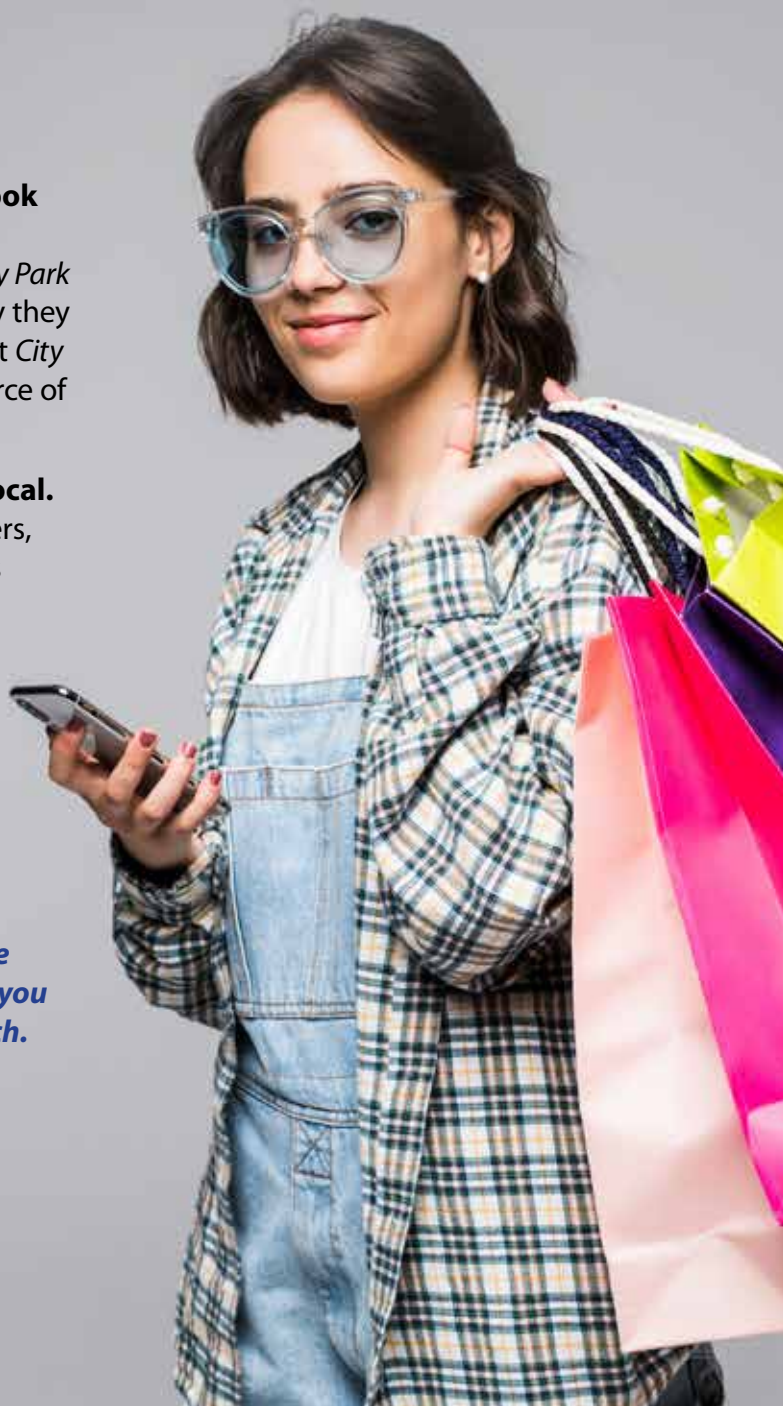
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*2014 Communications Survey, City of Normandy Park

Virtual Adaptation of StormFest

BY JESSIE MEDROW, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

In 2018, Highline Public Schools partnered with Normandy Park, Burien, Des Moines, Seatac, and King County to host a Stormwater Festival. StormFest is a field-based, experiential stormwater education event for six graders. Students descended on Des Moines Beach Park to learn about their local watershed, sources of pollution, and engineering solutions. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person gatherings were cancelled in 2020. That's when an at-home learning model began to take shape.

The Stormwater Challenge is a project-based learning opportunity developed through a partnership between Highline Public Schools, EarthGen (formerly Washington Green Schools), and the StormFest Committee Partners. The project was designed in response to the challenge of distance learning and as a replacement for the annual StormFest event. In this project, students will have the opportunity to work in teams to develop solutions to a real stormwater-themed challenge and experience presenting their solutions to an audience of community members. The challenge aims to increase knowledge of stormwater pollution and watershed science, as well as promote behaviors that reduce stormwater pollution.

Project Goals

- To design a stormwater challenge that meets Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).



- To provide stormwater curriculum that supplements the Weather & Climate unit for Science 6 students.
- To deliver fun, engaging lessons that show how everyday actions can impact our local environment in a positive way.
- To provide context for future StormFest events at the Des Moines Beach Park.

Project Logistics

The StormFest Committee Partners developed a series of short stormwater lesson plans that can be incorporated within the Weather and Climate unit. Changes in stormwater knowledge and behaviors are assessed with pre and post surveys administered digitally. The pre survey will be given to students at the start of the challenge, and the post survey will be distributed the last week of the quarter.

Multilingual Considerations

Highline School District is one of the most diverse school districts in Washington state, which is why a focus of the Stormwater Challenge is to ensure that all students receive quality stormwater education even in a remote setting. Committee partners are currently committed to translating all project curriculum into Spanish. Additionally, our partners have worked hard to adapt the curriculum and teaching methods to best meet the needs of multilingual learners.

StormFest Committee Partners include: City of Burien, City of Des Moines, City of SeaTac, City of Normandy Park, King County, EnviroIssues, Environmental Science Center, Zero Waste Washington, Washington Green Schools and Highline Public Schools. The Stormwater Challenge is funded by an interlocal agreement between city and county partners.

A Citizen's Guide to Monitoring Stormwater

Illicit Discharge, Detection & Elimination

BY JESSIE MEDROW, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

HOW CAN I HELP PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION?

- Participate in one of our basin stewardship programs.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste properly.
- Volunteer to mark storm drains.
- Pick up after your pets.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

Normandy Park Stormwater
Hotline: 206-248-8278

Callers will be asked to leave a detailed message with the following information:

- Date and Location
- Brief description of drainage issue, illicit discharge, or illicit connection.
- Name and Telephone Number

Public Works Department works hard to improve water quality and prevent pollution of stormwater runoff.

For more information, call (206) 248-7603 or visit normandyparkwa.gov/public-works/stormwater-management/

Point your smartphone camera at this QR Code to access the City's website!



NORMANDY PARK MUNICIPAL CODE

Title 13, Chapter 08 Drainage and Water Quality

The following are prohibited discharges pursuant to NPMC 13.08.200. It is unlawful for any person to discharge any contaminants into surface and stormwater, or groundwater. Contaminants include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Trash or debris;
- Construction materials;
- Petroleum products including but not limited to oil, gasoline, grease, fuel oil, and heating oil;
- Antifreeze and other automotive products;
- Metals in either particulate or dissolved form;
- Flammable or explosive materials;
- Radioactive material;
- Batteries;
- Acids, alkalis, or bases;
- Paints, stains, resins, lacquers, or varnishes;
- Degreasers and/or solvents;
- Drain cleaners;
- Pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers;
- Steam cleaning wastes;
- Soaps, detergents, or ammonia;
- Swimming pool backwash;
- Chlorine, bromine, and other disinfectants;
- Heated water;
- Domestic animal and livestock wastes;
- Sewage;
- Recreational vehicle waste;
- Animal carcasses;
- Food wastes;
- Bark and other fibrous materials;
- Collected lawn clippings, leaves, or branches;
- Silt, sediment, or gravel;
- Dyes (except as stated in subsection (3)(a) of this section);
- Chemicals not normally found in uncontaminated water;
- Any hazardous material or waste not listed above.

STORMWATER RUNOFF

Stormwater is rain and snow melt that runs off rooftops, paved streets, highways, and parking lots. It picks up pollution like oil, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, trash, and animal manure as it runs off. Most stormwater is not treated, even when it goes into a street drain. It flows downstream directly into streams, lakes, and marine waters. Stormwater runoff is the leading threat to Washington's urban waters, streambeds, banks, and habitats.

WHAT IS THE MS4?

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System refers to the conveyance system made up of roads, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains. This system serves Normandy Park by collecting stormwater and distributing it to retention ponds, stormwater facilities, or local waterways.



Spring in Normandy Park



Julie Cooke



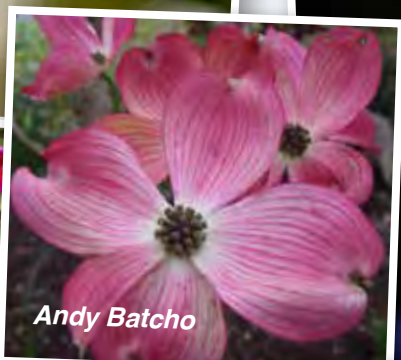
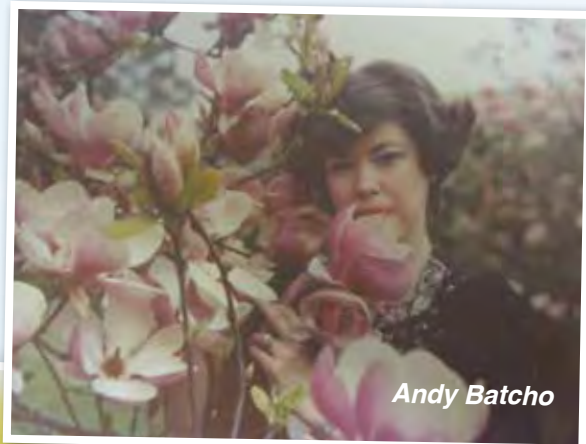
Mitchell Henry



Stephen Benzon



Andy Batcho



Assisting Normandy Park residents in discovering tools, programs, and resources that are available to them

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Urban Shorelines and Riparian Habitat Improvement Services

This program offers technical assistance and project implementation services to urban landowners with freshwater shoreline and riparian habitat on their property. Visit <https://kingcd.org/get-involved/events/> for a webinar on how to Beautify and Care for Your Streamside Property and Benefits and Beauty of Landscaping with Native Plants.



Where the Water Begins

Is your marine bluff or beach property eroding or jeopardizing your house? Do you want to manage trees and shrubs to stabilize your property while maintaining a beautiful view of Puget Sound? King Conservation District invites you to attend FREE workshops developed for property owners along the marine shorelines of King County.

The workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to learn about the ecological, geological and vegetation management issues associated with owning property Where the Water Begins. Hear presentations from local experts and get your questions answered. Sign up to attend the webinar and receive FREE RESOURCES and SITE VISIT from KCD marine shoreline experts.

Visit King Conservation District website for upcoming workshops: <https://kingcd.org/programs/better-water/where-the-water-begins/?highlight=marine>

KING COUNTY METRO NEWLY ADDED PROGRAMS & OFFERS

King County Metro is offering a virtual version of our popular Neighborhood Pop-Up program. Live online presentations will cover how to navigate the regional transit system, using an ORCA card and what steps Metro is taking to keep riders safe. Each event will be followed by a Q&A session with Metro staff. Anyone who is new to transit, or may have questions about how to ride, can sign up to attend a public event online. They also have availability to book private virtual Neighborhood Pop-Up events for organizations.

www.kingcounty.gov/metro/popup



King County Metro also has introduced the Reduced Fare Portal. The Portal offers an easy and secure way for customers to apply for Senior and Disability Regional Reduced Fare Permits and LIFT cards online. For a limited time, ORCA Youth cards are also available through the Portal. The Virtual Neighborhood Pop-Up presentations include some tips about using the Portal.

www.kingcounty.gov/portal/reducedfare



KING COUNTY HOUSING REPAIR

The King County Housing Repair Program provides repairs such as replacing your roof, installing a new septic system, repairs addressing emergency conditions, health and safety problems or major building preservation issues within the single family owner occupied home. For renters with a disability, we provide funding to make your unit more accessible. Contact (206) 263-9095 for eligibility criteria and additional information.



PUGET SOUND REBATES & OFFERS



Whether you're buying a home, remodeling or just looking to spend less, you can use PSE's valuable rebates and offers to save on energy efficiency upgrades to your living space. The more energy-efficient your home becomes, the lower your bills can get.

For personalized advice, call an Energy Advisor at 1-800-562-1482, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Download a complete 2021 overview of all residential energy efficiency rebates and programs.



Do you have tips to share with your neighbors? Submit suggestions to Brooks Wall at bwall@normandyparkwa.gov.

COLLABORATIVE COOPERATIVE CONNECTED PASSIONATE



Real estate is my passion; I want to make it yours!

Leslie Newman, Realtor/Broker

206.769.8882 • leslienewman@remax.net

www.leslienewman.com



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Desert Sun
Mia Bella Salon

SERVICES

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International Freight

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